

GOLF GLOVE

FIELD OF INVENTION

5 The invention relates generally to a ball marker removably affixed to a golf glove, and more specifically, to a system for retaining the marker on the golf glove with a magnet.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Golf ball markers have been used for many years in order to mark the position of a golf ball on a fairway or green during a game of golf. Golf ball markers are typically formed as small, disk-shaped structures, usually fabricated from plastic or metal.

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Golfers have long been faced with the difficulties of transporting ball markers around the links and keeping them conveniently at hand while leaving their hands free to play the game. Although the golf bag generally used to transport the clubs includes pockets in which markers may be stored and transported, such pockets are not well suited for providing easy access to small items. Use of pockets in the golfer's clothing is similarly unsatisfactory. Items stored in the shirt pockets may fall out and be lost when the player bends to tee up or place a marker. Quite often, the ball marker is carried in a player's trouser pocket, and the player is thus forced to dig and fumble through the contents of the pocket in order to retrieve it.

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Golf ball markers have similar sizes and shapes to coins, which are often carried in the same pocket. A golf ball marker therefore cannot be easily separated from the other contents of the pocket by the sense of touch. The retrieval of a golf ball marker for use thereby creates a source of annoyance and distraction to the golfer.

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Systems for enhancing the convenience of access of ball markers have been devised. For example, golf ball markers may be releasably mounted by means of magnets in items such as golf divot tools. U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,889, discloses a method of securing a golf ball marker on an article of clothing. In this patent, a metal

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ball marker is retained by a means of a magnet that is attached to clothing material by an adhesive. U.S. Pat. No. 5,898,946 is another example of a metal ball marker held in place by virtue of magnetic attraction.

U.S. Patent No. 5,305,999, shows a golf accessory with a magnet holding a
5 ball marker. The patent shows a portion of the magnet being eliminated, whereby the ball marker can be easily removed by pressing it into the tail void created by the eliminated portion of the magnet, thereby allowing it to be "flipped up".

U.S. Patent No. 6,513,165, shows a golf glove with a magnet holding a ball
10 marker. The magnet is held in place a retaining wall that is partially cut-out to allow the ball marker to be able to easily slide out of the holder.

Accordingly, it is seen that there is a need for device for holding golf ball
markers that would be simple to use, inexpensive, and which would not necessarily constitute an item of apparel in addition to that normally worn by golfers. It would
also be seen desirable to have a golf marker that would serve to display a logo,
15 insignia or other personalized surface embellishments.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a ball marker or custom logo medallion
20 holder which is open and readily accessible to a golfer. Providing such a holder which is compact and light weight and easily accessible when placed on a golf glove or other clothing article permits easy one-handed access to the marker for removal and replacement.

The present invention provides for an improved ball marker holder that is sewn
25 into the outer surface of the glove so that the ball marker is visible. The visibility allows for the use of logos, advertisements, personalization, pad printed, adhesive stickers and other indicia to be printed, embossed etc. on the upper side of the marker or medallion.

The invention provides for the retention of the marker within a holder by a
30 magnet that is embedded in the base of the holder. The marker need only be a disc made of some magnetically attractive metal. The improved design, whereby the

marker holder has a portion of its retaining wall cut away, allows for convenient, one-hand, easy removal and replacement of the marker. The magnet, which is embedded in an aperture of the base, occupies only a portion of the base, thereby offering more flexibility than a larger magnet.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a pictorial view of the back surface of a golf glove and golf ball marker mounted on the glove.

10 FIG. 2 is a pictorial view of the hook and loop fastening system.

FIG. 3 is a side view of the golf ball marker attached to the glove.

FIG. 4 is a top view of the holder without the marker.

FIG. 5 is an elevation view of the holder taken from along line A—A of FIG. 4, with the addition of the ball marker.

15 FIG. 6 is an elevation side of the holder taken along line B—B of FIG. 4.

FIG. 7 is a pictorial view of the magnet.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Referring now to the drawings, FIGS. 1-2 describe a golf glove of the type often worn by golfers to ensure a firm grip on a club handle. Like conventional golf gloves, the glove **10** includes having fingers **12**, a thumb **14**, a body **16**, and closure assembly **18**. For the present invention a ball marker holder **20** is attached to closure assembly **18**.

25 In more detail, glove **10** is of flexible construction, preferably of leather and is perforated with ventilation holes **22** on the dorsal surface of fingers **12**. Glove body **16** includes a front surface (not shown), and a dorsal, back surface **24** which is divided by an opening **30** into a lateral portion **32** adjacent the thumb **14** and a medial portion **34**.

30 Glove closure assembly **18** includes a generally rectangular area of fabric loop fastener material **26**, attached to lateral back surface **32** by a row of marginal

stitching. A generally rectangular flap **38** is coupled with medial portion **34** so as to overlie fastener material **26** in mating engagement when in the closed position. Flap **38** includes an inner surface **44** of fabric loop fastener material and an outer surface **46** joined by stitching. The fabric hook and loop closure system is conventional, and
5 need not be described in great detail. In other embodiments, snaps, buttons, or any other suitable closure devices may be substituted for fabric loop fastener material or hook and loop fasteners in closure assembly **18**.

Of greater significance, as concerning the present invention, is the presence of a generally flat, rectangular magnet **33**, which is located within the ball marker holder
10 **20**, as shown in FIGS. 3-6. The ball marker holder **20**, as seen in FIGS. 3-6, includes a generally circular retaining wall **21**, partially closed at a bottom end **23** with a base portion **25**, while having an opening **27** at the top end **29**. The base portion **25** has a first aperture **31** defined therein for placement of magnet **33**. The magnet **33** is
15 designed with a size and configuration to be received within the first aperture **31**, as seen in FIG. 7. First aperture **31** having an edge section **45** for receiving the magnet **33**. The base portion **25** includes a chord section **C--C**, as seen in FIG. 4, to define a section of the base portion **25** which is cut away to create a second aperture **41**.
Magnet **33**, upon being seated in the first aperture **31**, may be held in place by friction fitting, glue, tape, adhesive etc.

20 A ball marker **35** can be made from a multitude of materials, but at least one surface is of a ferrous metal having a magnetic attraction. Ball marker **35** is of a size and shape that it may be placed within the retaining wall **21**, with one surface juxtaposed against the magnet **33** and firmly held by the embedded magnet **33** until dislodged by a greater force. A wing extension **37** encircles the retaining wall **21** and
25 is disposed between the outer and inner surfaces **46, 44** and is sewn into the outer surface **46**. A part of retaining wall **21** is removed to create a cutout section **43**, which is in alignment with the second aperture **41**. The user only has to depress the rim of ball marker **35** (that is the section above the second aperture **41**) into second aperture **41**, as illustrated in FIG. 3. This action urges ball marker **35** to flip up and
30 slide out of the holder **20**, where it may easily be removed with the use of only one hand. It is an important consideration, that at the cutout section **43**, the plane of the

retaining wall **21** is of a lower height than the rest of the wall **21** and is approximately level with the top surface of the magnet **33** and base portion **25**. This allows the player to use a sliding one-handed motion to remove the marker **35**.

5 It is to be understood that while certain forms of the present invention have been illustrated and described herein, it is not to be limited to the specific forms or arrangement of parts described and shown. An example may be wherein the materials of the ball marker **35** and the magnet **33** are reversed, i.e. the ball marker **35** be the made of magnetic material and the magnet **33** be made of a ferrous type material.

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